ROBOT×LASERBEAM

BY TADATOSHI FUJIMAKI

Robato Hatohara, a stupidly serious, creepily thorough and socially clueless high school boy, appears to have no interest in anything—including joining his friend Tomoya in the golf club. But when it's discovered that his perfect accuracy and calculations enable him to golf like a practiced professional, will he be able to escape playing golf?

PREVIOUSLY IN *ROBOT×LASERBEAM*:

After Robato Hatohara demonstrates his perfect swing, famous high school golfer Yozan Miura declares him to be his rival! But for their rivalry to actually grow, Robo needs to join the golf club and become a regular. A second-year student and regular, Rion Osanai, takes Robo under his wing to accomplish this goal and help him get a score of 70 before the training camp. Robo survives the athletic training for the team, but his score isn't good enough to compete in the training camp. But then Kyosuke Suzaku, a.k.a. "the Emperor," appears and challenges Robo to play against him in the practice match! The match begins, and Robo is losing by only a little. But then Suzaku hits his ball into a seemingly impossible-to-recover spot, only to make a perfect lob shot right into the hole! Meanwhile, Rion gets fired up watching Robo play his match…

*An Americon Tour player. Famous for his long-distance drives.

HE'S A BEAST!
KAORU SEJIMA, THE ROOKIE FROM TOHOKU INTER-NATIONAL ...!!

...

Round 18: Group 2 and Group 5

HIYAAAH!!
THOK

WOOSH
WHOA! HE'S BEEN HITTING LIKE THAT SINCE THE FIRST HOLE!
ALL HIS SHOTS HAVE ONLY BEEN HOOKS!*
EVEN WITH THAT WIND FROM THE LEFT!
ボボボ…
SPUTTER SPUTTER
ZOOOOOM

* A ball that turns to the left. It's oftentimes called that when it turns more than in a draw.

NO...
THE PIN IS RAISED AND TO THE RIGHT.
EVEN IF IT FALLS AT THE BASE OF THE PIN, IT'LL JUST ROLL AND KEEP GOING!
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA GET ANYWHERE NEAR THE PIN, RIGHT?

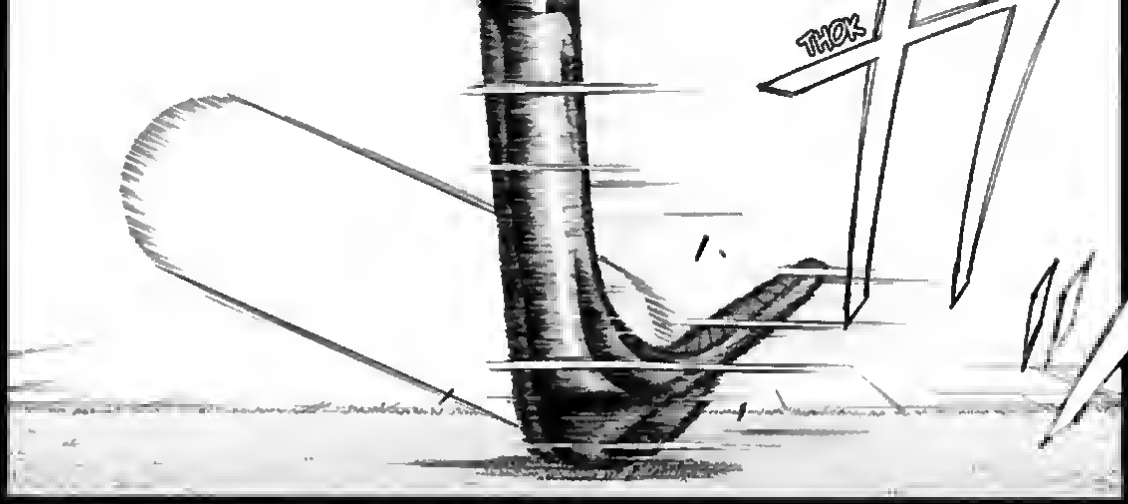
ZWIP
THUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TIP
WAAH!
HE AIMED FOR SUCH A NARROW AREA WITH THAT HOOK?!
WHAAAT?! IT HIT THE SLOPE TO THE SIDE OF THE PUTTING GREEN AND STOPPED?!

YOU SAID YOU WERE "ALL FIRED UP," DIDN'T YOU, OSANAI-KUN?!
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE GONNA BEAT ME?
HA HA HA! HOW WAS THAT?! I'M PASSIONATE HOOKER TAKESHI!
UGH. LAME.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE TITLE OF SOME VINTAGE MANGA.
BADUUUUM!
ばぁーん!

THEN JUST TRY IT!
Takeshi Fuwa
Tohoku International High School 2nd Year
Best Score: 67
WOOSH

THOK
FOR HIS SECOND SHOT ON A 550-YARD PAR 5 HOLE...
...HE USED A 6 IRON?!
ZWOOM

WAAAAH!
A GREEN IN REGU-LATION!
HE'S GOT A CHANCE AT AN EAGLE!
THUD
UNBELIEV-ABLE... KARASUMA-SAN'S BEING TOTALLY DOMINATED.
AND...
...AFTER TWO STROKES, HE'S STILL 50 YARDS OFF THE GREEN.
YOUR SHOTS DON'T FLY AS FAR AS I THOUGHT THEY WOULD.
PLEASE TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY.
SERIOUSLY... HUH?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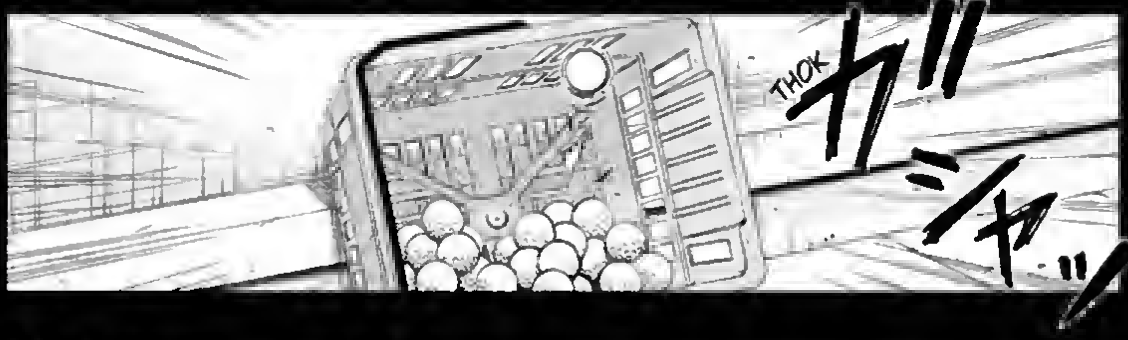

THOK
カッシャ

PHEW...

YOU'RE MORE FOCUSED THAN USUAL...
...ON YOUR DAILY ONE-HAND STROKES.
* In order to correctly swing o heovy golf club with one hond, you must use not only your hond, but olso your entire body. It's on importont bosic exercise.
RION.
TOSS
HERE. I BOUGHT YOU THIS.
SHOE SPIKE TACKS.
THANKS.
CATCH
...

KARA-SUMA...
YOU'VE CHANGED A LITTLE RECENTLY.
...?
I HAVE ...?

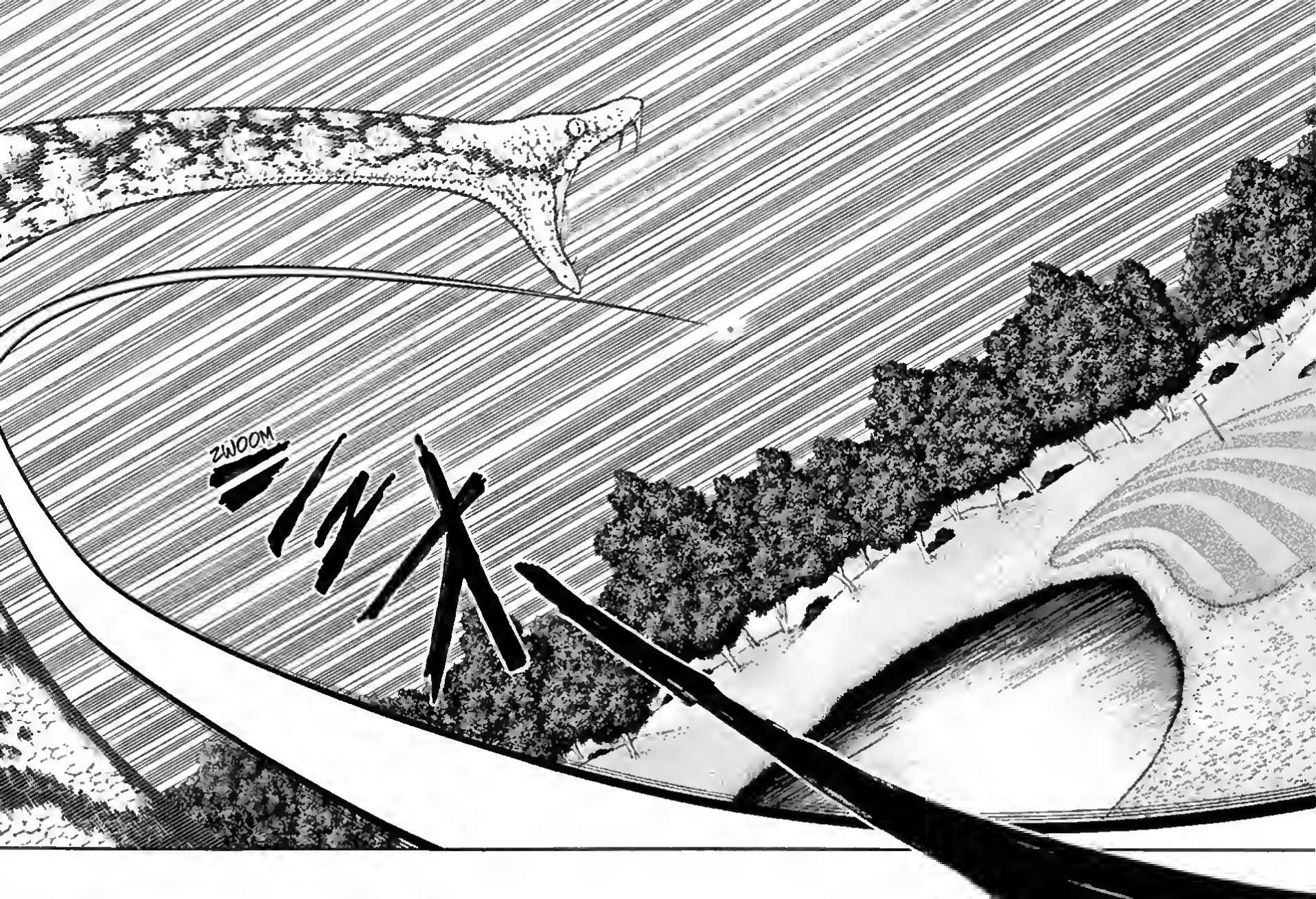
YEAH.
THE OLD YOU WAS SORTA VAGUE...
I MEAN, YOU STILL ARE, BUT...
YOU'D CALMLY RACK UP THESE AMAZING SCORES...
...BUT YOU'D HAVE A LUKEWARM ATTITUDE TOWARD GOLF.

BUT EVER SINCE YOU LOST TO YOZAN MIURA, YOU'VE INCREASED HOW MUCH YOU PRACTICE.
AND THEN WHEN ROBO SHOWED UP...
...YOU LOST THAT APATHETIC VIBE.

HUH.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME.
IT'S NOT A BAD THING.
I THINK YOU, IF ANYBODY, WOULD UNDERSTAND, BUT...
...YOU AND ME... WE'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF GOLF AS ALL THAT DIFFICULT, YOU KNOW?
NO, ACTUALLY I HAVE.
DON'T ASSUME I'M ANYTHING LIKE YOU, YOU DAMN GENIUS.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I ALWAYS CAME OFF AS INDIFFERENT.
BUT I'VE NEVER CUT CORNERS WHEN IT COMES TO GOLF.
I'VE NEVER SLACKED ON MY DAILY WORK AND I DO MY BEST DURING PRACTICE.
IF I HAD TO SAY, I TRY TO PUT 100 PERCENT EFFORT INTO IT.
BUT THERE'S ALSO SOMEONE WHO SURPASSES THAT 100 PERCENT...
...AND DOES THINGS AT 120 PERCENT.

THAT KIND OF GUY GETS STRONGER ...
..AT A SPEED YOU CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE.
BUT WE'RE THE SAME. THERE'S NO CLEAR LINE BETWEEN US.
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU TOO. RIGHT, RION?
SO THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO GIVE UP AND LET HIM BEAT ME.

YOU'VE SUDDENLY STARTED RUNNING A LOT MORE LATELY.
SHUT UP.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THAT BRAT! THAT'S ALL!
I'm not focusing on something so petty.
HOY
DASH


ZWOOM

IT'S RIDING ON THE WIND COMING IN FROM THE LEFT...
...AND TURNING EVEN MORE SHARPLY THAN USUAL!
THERE IT IS! THE SERPENT BITE!
BUT... IS IT GOING TO BE OKAY ?!
THIS IS...
...A STYLE OF ATTACK COMPLETELY OPPOSITE FROM MINE!
HE'S PLANNING ON HITTING THE SLANTED GREEN OPPOSITE THE POND!
WAH!
HE DID IT! IT'S RIGHT BY THE PIN!
TUMP
TUMP
THUMP
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR BEST SCORE IS, BUT...
...TODAY I'M UPPING MINE.

OOH!
I LIKE IT! YOU'RE ON FIRE!
I'M GONNA WIN!
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SHRINK AWAY!
YOU'RE RIGHT...
SO FAR... I PROBABLY HAVE BEEN SLACKING.
シャリ
東北国際

SPIN
THE LAST 70 YARDS IS HIS TERRITORY.
HE'S THE MAN WHO POSSESSES SEVEN SHADES OF APPROACH TECHNIQUES.
SPIN
THAT STUPID SEJIMA...HE GOT SO FULL OF HIMSELF THAT HE RILED UP HIS OPPONENT.
DOESN'T HE KNOW WHAT KARASUMA'S CALLED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY?!
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT SERIOUS.
HE'S THE WEDGE WIZARD!
SPIN
TO BE CONTINUED...